का इस समय तकनीकी आर्थिक दृष्टि से व्यवहार्य पाए जाने की संभावना है । पम्बा–अचनकोविल–वैगई सम्पर्क पर एक विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट तैयार करने का कार्य शुरू किया गया है ।

**Shortage of foodgrains in Orissa**

*169. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Orissa foodgrains scenario bleak" as published in the Hindustan Times dated 26th August, 1991;

(b) if so, whether Food Corporation of India is responsible for lack of coordination and mismanagement in many depots of the Corporation; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to ensure regular supply of rice, wheat and other cereals to the poor and tribals of Koraput, Phulbani, Mayurbhanj and Keonjar districts in Orissa where the FCI depots are reportedly found to be out of stocks of foodgrains at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It has been reported by the Food Corporation of India that the lifting of rice, and wheat in the four districts of Orissa upto July, 1991 in the current financial year has been satisfactory but it did suffer somewhat during August, 1991. The Corporation has been asked to undertake inter-district movement to supplement despatches from Punjab and Haryana so that balance of allocations made for August 1991 are lifted by the State Government during the current month.

**Incentives for production of wheat in Madhya Pradesh**

*170. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Madhya Pradesh grows the best quality of wheat in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that demand of Madhya Pradesh wheat has increased manifold throughout the country; and

(c) if so, what incentives Government propose to give to the cultivators or to the State of Madhya Pradesh for better wheat cultivation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Wheat varieties like C.306, Sujata, Mukta and local Malvi etc., produced in the State of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are in demand due to good physical appearance and cooking quality.

(c) A Centrally Sponsored Special Foodgrains Production Programme for wheat with 100 per cent assistance from Government of India is under implementation since 1988-89 in the State of Madhya Pradesh for increasing the production and productivity in 21 selected districts. The fund allocated for Madhya Pradesh for the year 1991-92 is Rs. 285 lakhs.

**Theft and pilferage of Railway Materials**

*171. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of thefts and pilferage of railway materials has increased considerably despite the manifold increase in the strength of Railway Protection Force;